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MESSAGE

OF

John Walter Smith

Governor of Maryland

TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

At its Regular Session
JANUARY, 1902

BALTIMORE:
KING BROTHERS, State Pr
1902

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STATE OF MARYLAND.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, ANNAPOLIS, MD.,

January 1, 1902.

To the General Assembly:

In the discharge of the duty imposed upon me by the Constitution, I desire to call your attention, as briefly as is consistent with the proper treatment of the interests involved, to those matters only which are new, or which should receive special consideration on the part of your honorable body. Information on any subject not herein given and within the Executive province, and not to be obtained from reports to the Legislature, if requested by your Honorable Body will be promptly supplied.

During the past two years the people of the State have prospered. Crops have been abundant, business industries have flourished, and the period has been conspicuous for its freedom from financial depression. Good order has prevailed throughout the State to a marked degree.

Notwithstandng two labor strikes, involving large numbers of workingmen on one side and powerful corporations on the other, have occurred since the session of the General Assembly of 1900, and in spite of the temptations and bitter passions naturally aroused, and excited by such contests to foment disorder, at all times the local police authorities were able to keep the peace.

It is also to be noted that the commission of petty crimes, and individual cases of negro rowdyism, which at one time prevailed to an alarming extent, are becoming less frequent, and while this

reflects credit directly on the police authorities, it should also be a subject for congratulation to the people of the whole State.

For the needs of the various departments and institutions, to which particular reference may not be made, sufficient information may be had for your enlightenment and guidance in the reports made to the General Assembly and the Executive. The reports of the various State officials furnish detailed and accurate information concerning their respective departments, and the character and results of the work done therein.

They contain much that is valuable and instructive, and merit your careful study in order that you may be the better enabled to perform the duties awaiting you with discrimination and intellgence and to the satisfaction of the people of the State. These reports will disclose in the conduct of State affairs an extraordinary degree of efficiency and conscientious zeal.

I particularly desire to congratulate the people of Maryland and the General Assembly on the condition of the State Treasury, and the report of the Comptroller shows the funded debt of the State, as of the 30th day of September, 1901, to be as follows:

3 per cent. Exchange Loan, per Chap. 201 of 1888....	$7,400 00
3.50 per cent. Penitentiary Loan per Chap. 166 of 1896..	500,000 00
3.50 per cent. Insane Asylum Loan, per Chap. 164 of 1896	100,000 00
3 per cent. Consolidated Loan of 1899 per Chap. 219 of 1896	5,401,926 13
3 per cent State Building and Improvement Loan, per Chap. 607 of 1900.....	500,000 00
Making an aggregate debt of.....	$6,509,326 13

As an offset to this debt of.....		$6,509,326 13
the State holds the following bonds and stocks, which are live assets:		
Stock of the Annapolis Water Co.....	$30,000 00	
Stock of the Farmers' National Bank of Annapolis.....	46,470 00	
Stock of the Baltimore and Fredericktown Turnpike Co.....	11,000 00	

Stock of the Washington Branch of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Co.	550,000 00	
Bond of the Northern Central Railway Co.	1,500,000 00	
Stocks, bonds and cash to credit of the Sinking Funds	1,709,511 84	
		$3,846,981 84
Net debt after productive stocks held by the State and the Sinking Funds are deducted		$2,662,344 29
When the present administration assumed office, January 10, 1900, the net debt of the State was of that date		$2,888,042 95
Net debt September 30, 1901		2,662,344 29
Decrease		$225,698 66
Notwithstanding an increase by the Legislature of 1900, by an issue of bonds to the amount of		500,000 00
Showing an actual reduction of		$725,698 66

The Legislature of 1900, believing the highest and best interests of the State would be served thereby, authorized by Chapter 607 of the Acts of 1900 the issue of a new loan, denominated "The State Building and Improvement Loan," amounting to $500,000, as above, for the following purposes:

State Building at Annapolis	$290,000 00
Completion of the Maryland Penitentiary	150,000 00
Completion of Springfield Hospital	60,000 00
	$500,000 00

It is manifest, therefore, that the present administration has not only virtually paid this loan, and by carrying as large a sum to the credit of the sinking fund as was done has, in addition, reduced the State debt $225,698.66.

Ample authority is given the Board of Public Works by Chapter 172 of the Acts of 1896 and Chapter 378 of the Acts of 1898 to sell all or a part of the State's assets not set apart for specific purposes, under certain conditions, when in the judgment of the Board of Public Works it is for the best interests that it be done, and the proceeds to be devoted to the payment of the outstanding bonds or certificates of debt of the State of Maryland.

Owing to litigation affecting the most valuable assets therein referred to, and also the State's interest in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, the Board of Public Works has deemed it unwise to exercise the authority vested in them.

It will be seen from the above financial statement that, including the stock and bonds of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, the State Treasury proper is in possession of assets which, if they could be sold judiciously, for an amount representing their full value, should be sufficient to cancel the State debt.

As a business proposition, it is advisable to pay this debt by selling the State assets, as I do not regard it as a wise financial policy to continue the indebtedness of the State any longer than a sufficient amount can be realized to pay the same from the proceeds of an advantageous sale, and to that end I am in favor of disposing of the State stock of the Washington Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, the annuity bond of the Northern Central Railway Company and the State's holdings in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, whenever conditions are such as to afford the State's officers an opportunity to make sale of same at their full value.

In offering the State's holdings in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, due regard should be had for the interests of the people dependent on its maintenance as affording transportation facilities and competition, which otherwise they might not have.

The books and accounts of the Comptroller and Treasurer have been regularly examined, and the State securities counted, as prescribed by law. The books and accounts have been neatly and accurately kept. The affairs of their offices are in most excellent condition, and the securities are intact.

The condition of the finances of the State reflects the highest credit on the Comptroller and Treasurer, and it gives me great pleasure to bear witness to the wisdom and fidelity they have displayed in the discharge of their responsible official duties.

STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR'S CONTINGENT FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR, 1899-1900, TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1900.

As required by law, I herewith submit a statement of the Governor's Contingent Fund:

Balance from fiscal year 1898-99	$978 00	
Annual appropriation	11,800 00	
Annual appropriation for clerical help in Executive Department, Chap. 259 of 1896	2,000 00	
Deficiency appropriation, Chap. 408 of 1900	2,000 00	
Refund of cost of extraditing F. Bowman	107 16	
		$16,885 16
Expended by previous Administration from October 1, 1899, to January 10, 1900	$5,841 83	
Expended by present Administration from January 11, 1900, to September 30, 1900—		
Extraditions	$938 93	
Office supplies	671 61	
Telegraph and telephone	275 53	
Expressage	35 27	
Advertising	339 88	
Miscellaneous	1,291 10	
Salaries	3,885 64	
Examination of accounts	115 00	
Uniforms of employes	82 75	
Repairs	16 50	
Printing for office	146 50	
		$13,640 54
Balance September 30, 1900		$3,244 62

REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPT. 30, 1901.

Balance from last fiscal year	$ 3,244 62	
Annual appropriation	12,100 00	
Annual appropriation under Chap. 256 of 1896	2,000 00	
Refund, cost extradition, R. W. McClintock	50 00	
		$17 394 62

Expended for:		
Examining accounts	$128 75	
Uniforms for employees	140 15	
Printing for office	177 60	
Repairs	41 60	
Extraditions	915 04	
Office supplies	548 24	
Telegraph and Telephone	491 20	
Expressage	47 28	
Advertising	1,110 99	
Miscellaneous	1,690 61	
Salaries	5,371 64	
		$10,663 10
Balance September 30, 1901		$6,731 52

Spanish War Claims.

On January 3, 1900, $10,341.47 was allowed the State by the United States Government, during the incumbency of my predecessor, on certain vouchers for clothing, etc., which was accepted with the belief that this was the last installment of pay the State would receive on account of claims growing out of the Spanish War. The result of further prosecution of the claims by the State Agent has resulted in the collection of the sum of $2,773.69, which was turned into the Treasury, leaving a further sum of $5,576.48, claimed by the State, which has been disallowed by the Auditor. An appeal has been taken to the Comptroller, whose final decision we are now awaiting.

INDIGENT BLIND.

As required by Section 6 of Article 30 of the Code of Public General Laws, I herewith report to your Honorable Body the amount of money expended for instruction in the Maryland Institution for the Indigent Blind, and the names, ages and place of residence of the different applicants:

For six months ending April 1, 1900	$10,925 00
For six months ending October 1, 1900	10,650 00
For six months ending April 1, 1901	9,887 50
For six months ending October 1, 1901	9,975 00
Total	$44,437 50

Applications for admission since January 10, 1900:

Name.	Residence.	Years—Age.	Years—Term.
1900—Lawrence Biddle	Baltimore County	15	5
Jas. E. Somerset	Baltimore City	7	8
Mary Glenn	"	12	8
Augusta Bollenger	"	10	8
Edwin Caskey	"	11	8
Bessie M. Bullock	"	15	5
Alva Kruchbaum	"	14	4
Ida V. Cross	"	8	8
1901—Jessie Kline	Allegany County	11	8
Elizabeth Quinn	Baltimore City	11	8
William A. West	"	16	5
Caroline O. Neusson	"	7	8
Charles T. Russel	"	11	8
Ella Duvall	"	7	8
Jos. S. Keene	"	9	8
Grace E. Pierpont	Howard County	9	8
Ruth L. Perry	Charles County	16	6
David Milton Crandall	Baltimore City	9	8
Myrette A. Montgomery	"	10	8
Bessie Seliger	"	8	8
Roscoe J. C. Hoke	Washington County	15	6
Louise Haskey	Baltimore City	16	3
Elizabeth P. Lynah	"	15	3
George Carter	"	16	3
Minnie E. Hicks	Kent County	21	3
Harry Cabel	Baltimore City	18	2
Joseph Hebrank, Jr.	"	19	2
Emma Mahle	"	19	1
Laura S. Adams	"	16	1
Charles Bender	"	16	3
Bertha A. Watts	Anne Arundel County	18	3
Sarah M. Waters	Harford County	17	2
Howard M. White	Carroll County	21	2

LITIGATION.

The Suit Against the Cumberland and Pennsylvania R. R. Co.

Suit was brought in the Circuit Court for Allegany County by the State against the Cumberland and Pennsylvania Railroad to recover $93,000, representing the amount of tax on the gross

receipts claimed from this road and other roads similarly taxed, payment of which was refused by the railroad. The case to which I have referred was made a test case. The case was taken to the Court of Appeals and the validity of the law imposing the tax sustained. Later the railroad company notified the Board of Public Works that it would settle the claims of the State by paying $88,370.60. On the advice of the Attorney-General, rather than contest the case in the United States Supreme Court, this amount was accepted, and the company also agreed to pay all costs and counsel fees.

The Washington Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio R. R. Co.

The State of Maryland, by Act of the General Assembly of 1832, Chapter 175, became a subscriber to 5,000 shares of the stock of the Washington Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and in the year 1838, in lieu of dividends on the said stock, received therefor from said company 500 additional shares of said stock, all of which is still owned by the State.

For many years preceding the year 1897, the State received an annual income of $55,000 from this stock, representing a dividend of 10 per cent. Since May, 1897, the company has failed to pay any dividends to the State on said stock, and the Attorney-General, in compliance with joint resolution No. 10, adopted by the Legislature of 1900, has filed a bill in equity to enforce payment of the dividends on the stock of the Washington Branch held by the State.

The answer to the bill has been filed by the railroad company to determine, after fair examination, the status of the road in view of the fact that it claims the right to charge as against the profits the expenditure of putting up terminal facilities in the City of Washington. The case is about ready for the taking of testimony and the submission to the court of the questions of law involved.

The Annuity Paid the State by the Northern Central Ry. Co.

The suit brought by the Northern Central Railway Company in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City to compel the State to accept $1,500,000 in extinguishment of the annuity of $90,000 created by the Act of 1854, was vigorously contested by the State, and was decided by Judge Wickes in favor of the State. The suit involves $1,500,000 to the State, being the difference between the estimated marketable value of the annuity and the price at which the railroad claimed the right to redeem it. The company contended it had the right to redeem the annuity at 6 per cent., or $1,500,000, which amount was tendered in payment by the company and refused by the State's officers. The company took the case to the Court of Appeals, where the decision of the Circuit Judge was sustained, and has now taken an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States, where the suit is still pending. The company has paid no part of the annuity of $90,000 since the payment made April 27, 1900, which was the payment falling due immediately preceding the date of the tender of the principal to the State.

Resisting an Extension of the Time Set for the Sale of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

By joint resolution No. 15 of the Legislature of 1900, the Board of Public Works is authorized and directed, after consultation with the Attorney-General, to resist the passage of any order or decree extending the time for the execution of the decree of the Circuit Court for Washington County, in equity, for the sale of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal beyond the time already set, to wit, six years from the first day of May, 1895, and to that end to instruct the Attorney-General to assert the right of the State to enforce the execution of said decree as soon after the first day of May, 1901, as shall be reasonable and practicable.

On April 18, 1901, the Attorney-General filed in the Circuit Court for Washington County, in equity, the answer of the State

to the petition filed by John K. Cowen, Esq., and his co-trustees, and objecting to the granting of the orders prayed for in said petition on the ground that there are no sufficient reasons for continuing the contract between the trustees of the canal and a certain Chesapeake and Ohio Transportation Company; that there has been an entire failure to carry out the provisions of the decree entered upon October 2, 1890, and that the sale should be proceeded with; that the report of the trustees show they cannot perform the conditions of the decree, and that postponement of the sale means destruction of the State's interests.

The petition, however, of the trustees, permitting them to continue the contract with the Chesapeake and Ohio Transportation Company, was granted by the lower court. An appeal was taken to the Court of Appeals, and the question was recently argued by the Attorney-General for the State. The decision of the Court has not yet been given.

PUBLIC EDUCATION.

The Public School system of the State is, on the whole, in a highly satisfactory condition. The Act of 1900, reorganizing the County School Boards, and providing for the bi-partisan management of county school affairs, has done much to eliminate partisan influence and make the schools more efficent.

Owing to the various constructions placed by County School Boards, on Section 59, Article 77, of the Code of Public General Laws, governing the award of contracts for school supplies, and in order to avoid friction and irritation in awarding such contracts, the State Board of Education, in the exercise of the authority over the County School Boards, conferred by law, on July 2, 1901, unanimously adopted the following resolution: "Now, therefore, be it by the State Board of Education resolved, That all text books hereafter to be supplied by the several Boards of County School Commissioners of this State, designed for use in the public school thereof, under the provisions of Chapter 135 of the Acts of 1896, Section 59, of Article 77, of the Code, should in all cases be purchased at the lowest possible price, to be ascertained by competitive bidding."

It is believed that this resolution will result in the adoption of a uniform system of awarding contracts, and will prevent undue partiality or preference in favor of any firm, for which some of the school boards have heretofore been criticised, and, indeed, resulted in an appeal to the courts. It should result also in effecting a more economical expenditure of the State appropriation.

Your attention is called to the frequent and often unnecessary change of text books in the public schools, which confuse the work of both teacher and pupil. Such changes may be encouraged by the surplus to the credit of the free-book fund. All the counties are fairly well supplied with books, and the appropriation for free books, which is now $150,000 per annum, should be reduced to $125,000, which amount, equitably distributed, should be sufficient to furnish all necessary books.

Manual Training.

Sixteen counties of the State have established Manual Training Schools, each receiving an annual appropriation of $1,500. I would respectfully recommend that some provision be made whereby the State Superintendent of Public Education be given authority to inspect these schools at least once a year, and report their condition to the Comptroller, who shall be guided by such report in honoring the draft for the appropriation. As the law now stands, but one school in a county can receive any part of the appropriation of $1,500 for manual training, which, in my judgment, is in excess of the amount necessary to maintain a single school. I would suggest the law be changed so that other graded or high schools shall receive a portion of the appropriation, to be applied under the direction of the County School Board. This would give the pupils in the graded or high schools in other school districts an opportunity to receive the benefit of this instruction, and not restrict it to one locality. The first cost of the equipment of sixteen of the schools has been met, and it is natural to assume they will not require as much money to carry on the system as when first organized.

I would recommend for your consideration the interesting report by Prof. W. C. A. Hammel, of the State Normal School, on manual training, which has been adopted by the State Board of Education, as setting forth the best method of teaching and object of manual training, and which is available in printed form.

State Superintendent of Public Education.

This office was created by Act of the General Assembly of 1900, and while the work of the office at first was largely regarded as experimental, it has been found that the service of the present superintendent has resulted in great benefit to the school system of the State, and his work is worthy of the encouragement of your Honorable Body. As the Superintendent believes the work of his office can be materially aided, and the efficiency of the school system advanced by the distribution of circulars and pamphlets to school officials and teachers of the State, he asks for a small appropriation for this purpose and for the expenses of his office, which is hereby respectfully recommended.

State Normal School.

The State Normal School continues to do good work in fitting young men and women to fill the positions as teachers in the public schools throughout the State.

The report af the Superintendent shows its affairs to be in a prosperous condition.

State Normal School No. 2.

The General Assembly of 1898, Chapter 406, authorized the building of a State Normal School, at Frostburg, to be known as Normal School No. 2, and appropriated for the purpose of erecting a suitable building $20,000.

The building has been completed and accepted by the State, but has never been used for the purpose contemplated by the framers of the act authorizing its erection.

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

No question is of so much importance to the people as the establishment of proper sanitary conditions and the preservation of the public health. Much has been accomplished by the State Board of Health in preventing the occurrence and spread of epidemics, and the sale of unwholesome food products.

The records of the Secretary of the State Board of Health show that since March, 1901, one hundred and three animals, beside a large quantity of diseased parts of carcasses, has been destroyed. The Board should have the power not only to confiscate diseased meat, but also to punish the vendor.

It is believed that much can be done by systematic, scientific methods to prevent the spread of tuberculosis and effect its cure in the ealier stages.

When we consider that during the year of 1900, 2,097 deaths in Maryland from tuberculosis were reported, which equalled about 12 per cent. of the total number of deaths occurring in the State for the same period, and greatly exceeded the number of deaths attributed to any other disease, it is the evident duty of the State to adopt measures of relief. Eliminating all humanitarian considerations, and viewing the problem from a cold business and economic standpoint, without regard to the relief of suffering and freedom from misery, the fact that there are many unfortunate people, who by reason of this disease are unable to contribute to the general welfare, and who in most cases must depend for treatment and sustenance on private benefaction, and in many cases on the public at various State and county institutions, which are not properly equipped for the purpose, is a restraint on the general material advancement of our people, and to that extent a detriment to the State.

If by the exercise of proper regulations the ravages of this disease can to an extent be checked, and the productive energy of our people left to a greater degree unhampered by disease

and the care of the infirm, the material advancement of the State will to that extent be promoted. There is scarcely a family in the State that has not had sad experience with this disease.

At present there is scarcely any provision made in this State for the reception and treatment in any institution of consumptives. A few find lodgment in the hospitals, in spite of the rules intended to exclude them; a few are treated at the small hospital for consumptives in Baltimore county; but the majority are in the insane asylums, prisons, almshouses and private dwellings of the State, spreading infecton to others, and with no hospital accommodations that can be had, no matter how much needed and desired.

I earnestly recommend for your favorable consideration the advisability of creating an unpaid commission to inquire into the presence of tuberculosis in the State, and to devise some means of dealing with it more economically and efficiently than at present. A sufficient sum should be appropriated to pay the expense incurred by said commission in making such investigation.

It is considered advisable that the duties of the local Boards of Health be defined, and a uniform plan of organization and procedure be provided, so that there may be no conflict of authority or divided responsibility in case of emergency.

THE MARYLAND HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE AND THE SPRINGFIELD HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

These two hospitals are owned and managed by the State for the purpose of providing suitable facilities for the humane and enlightened treatment of the insane.

While the amount of money required to pay the current running expenses of these hospitals has to be supplemented by large

annual appropriations from the State Treasury, aggregating each year $55,000, still the benefits derived are great.

It is to the highest credit of the State that such generous provision has been made for the improvement of the condition of this unfortunate class, and we have to an extent fulfilled the moral obligation which rests upon us to care for them in providing these two hospitals, of which every public-spirited citizen has a right to be proud, for their reception.

It is unnecessary for me to refer further to these institutions, as a comprehensive idea of their affairs can be had from the complete reports submitted by the Boards of Managers and the Superintendents.

THE PENITENTIARY.

The affairs of the Penitentiary are in a satisfactory condition in every particular. The gross earnings are equal to former years, but the net earnings are somewhat less than last year, owing to the new and enlarged buildings, covering more ground than the old structures, requiring more guards, much more fuel, etc., and all provisions generally are higher than last year. Notwithstanding this, the surplus this year is $29,190.

The inmates are amply provided for, their health being remarkably good, and all who are able to work are constantly employed. The discipline is fully maintained.

The appropriation of the State of $150,000 for equipment and the improvement of the old buildings and shops, has been and is now being judiciously expended, thereby improving the physical condition of the institution by remodeling and modernizing most of the old buildings. The warden's old residence and administration building are fitted most excellently for hospital purposes. There is about to be erected a four-story factory building, 100x50 feet, which, with its necessary equipment, will about exhaust the appropriation referred to.

With these improvements completed, this institution will be in splendid condition, thereby increasing its earning capacity, and I am pleased to say it will not ask any money from the State at this time. The State is to be congratulated on the excellent management of this institution.

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

The Maryland House of Correction is well managed, and its affairs are in as good condition as the present prison accommodations will permit.

Its financial condition is improving. The farm is in good cultivation and the stock and crops have increased. The revenue received from the labor of the prisoners is also increasing. The buildings, equipment, machinery and grounds have been put in first-class order.

Every effort has been made to improve the sanitary condition of the prison and preserve the health of the inmates. It is a tribute to the care of the Superintendent and the skill of the physician in charge that the death rate is so low.

The number of prisoners confined in the House of Correction has increased from an average of 309 for the closing month of the fiscal year of 1897, to 477 for the same period of 1901. The daily average for the past year was 485 77-365. At one time there were 550 prisoners in the institution, which is the greatest number ever confined there at the same time. There are only 232 cells for men, which number is entirely inadequate for the proper accommodation of the prisoners. At present two men are crowded in one small cell, and at times as many as 15 men have been kept together in one large room. This is a deplorable state of affairs. Under such circumstances it is difficult to maintain proper discipline. Often boys, confined for stealing a ride on railroad trains, or equally trivial offenses, may be brought in close association with hardened criminals, thus making what should be a reformatory a school for crime, and the Superintendent is powerless to remedy the trouble.

More cell room is needed, and I earnestly and respectfully recommend that provision be made for the erection of a wing to join the present building, and to harmonize therewith in size and appearance, to contain 232 cells. The present building was constructed with a view to adding a wing to the south side without interfering in any way with the present structure during the building of the addition.

With the building herein suggested the constantly increasing number of prisoners can be cared for, their health and morals will be better, and the earning capacity of the prison will be greater.

STATE FISHERY FORCE.

The value of the present oyster law depends on the thoroughness and impartiality with which it is enforced. As a measure for the protection and preservation of the oyster beds and the production of sufficient revenue to support the State fishery force, as at present administered, it is a success. The Legislature of 1900 found it necessary to appropriate $35,000 from the State Treasury to meet accumulated deficiencies in the oyster fund. At the close of the last fiscal year, September 30, 1901, there was a surplus to the credit of the oyster fund of $20,471.49.

The provision of the law requiring the culling of oysters, which is its most important feature, has been rigidly enforced, and should operate to the great advantage of the oystermen, as the small oysters are left to grow, thereby insuring a better supply for the succeeding season, and the market is also relieved of the demoralizing presence of large quantities of small oysters, which are brought in competition with good oysters and decrease their price. The good effects of the law are already apparent, as the quality of the oysters this season is unusually good, and the catch will probably be larger than the last. Intelligent oystermen should aid the officers of the State in detecting and punishing violations of the cull law, and it is to their obvious interest to do so, as they cannot catch or destroy the small oysters one season and hope for a good supply the next.

About 8,782 boats of different descriptions are engaged in catching oysters in the waters of the State, and it is important and good business policy that something be done to keep up the supply of oysters and extend the acreage of the beds.

I would suggest that your Honorable Body authorize the expenditure of $5,000, to be appropriated from the oyster fund, for oyster shells, to be planted in the waters of the State by experienced oystermen, under the supervision and control of the Commander of the State Fishery Force. The bottom to be planted should be selected by the Commander, and no oysters should be taken from same for two years thereafter.

I would also recommend that the tax of fifty cents per month per man, imposed by the Act of 1900 on the hands employed on dredge boats, be repealed, as it is unnecessary as a measure for raising revenue, and it seems unjust and oppressive.

Under present conditions Maryland oystermen are at a serious disadvantage in taking oysters from the waters of the Potomac river, which is used in common by the oystermen of both Virginia and Maryland, because the provisions of the Virginia cull law are more lax than ours, and the penalty imposed for its violation is lighter. The principal cause of complaint, however, is the ineffectual enforcement of their own law by the Virginia authorities, and our oystermen justly regard it as a hardship that they are prohibited from taking small oysters which the Virginia oystermen are permitted to catch on bottom which is common to both, and where equal rights should be enjoyed. There is urgent need of concurrent, harmonious legislation on the part of Maryland and Virginia regulating the taking of oysters in the Potomac, and the provisions of the law should be impartially enforced, thereby affording the residents of neither State just cause of complaint.

The fleet of the State Fishery Force at present consists of two steamers, ten schooners and two sloops.

Considerable money was required by the present Commander to get the steamers and vessels in condition to render efficient service. Two vessels were rebuilt from the keel up, five

received new sails, and all of them new rigging. The sloop Nannie Merryman is old and unseaworthy, and should be replaced by a new boat. All the other boats are in first-class condition, and the money expended on them has been paid out of the current revenues of the oyster fund.

FISH COMMISSION.

The Commissioners of Fisheries show in their biennial report that they have been quite active in their operations. They planted more shad, perch and bass fry in the rivers of the State in 1901 than was ever hatched before by the State in one year. The Commission is being conducted on strict business principles, and is being commended by the people of the State who are conversant with the good work done by it. A new hatchery has been established on the St. Martin's river, where the white perch alone will be propagated, and from that point distributed to the various rivers of the State. A black bass pond has been constructed by the Commissioner for the Eastern Shore, where it is proposed to raise these fish for distribution to the rivers and ponds not already well supplied with food fish. At the Druid Hill Hatching Station, Baltimore, great success has been attained in hatching and raising young trout and bass this year, and many thousands have been distributed from that station by the Comissioner for the Western Shore. Prof. Brooks, of the Johns Hopkins University, and other eminent scientists, pay high tribute to the artificial propagation of the shad and other food fish, and it is believed by many that the shad would ere this have been almost extinct had it not been for the work of the Government and the various States' Fish Commissions. Several years ago, before the value of this department of the State Government was well understood, the appropriation for the work of the Maryland Commissioners was cut down. The Commissioners now ask for an increased appropriation that they may enlarge their operations with corresponding advantage to the people of the State.

It is not generally known that Maryland employs more people in her fisheries than any other State. It is also true that

our fisheries are far more valuable, and as the number engaged in the business contines to increase from year to year, it is necessary that we adopt new and improved methods to foster this most important industry.

The Commissioners recommend the enactment of legislation that will prevent the channels of our rivers being blocked with pounds and fikes in such a manner as to prevent the shad ascending the rivers in their natural spawning grounds.

GAME WARDEN.

The State Game Warden has been energetic and successful in the performance of his duties, and with the assistance of his deputies he has enforced the laws of the State for the preservation and protection of the fish and game better than ever before.

STATE TOBACCO WAREHOUSES.

The business of the State Tobacco Warehouses is not as prosperous as would be desired. In recent years conditions have arisen which never before existed, and means should be adopted to enable the officers of the State, charged with the duty of managing this property, to meet private competition. The receipts of tobacco at the State Warehouses have declined, entailing a corresponding decrease of revenue. This can partially be explained by the energy shown by competing private concerns in sending agents to solicit consignments from the grower at the place of shipment. Under the law the State Tobacco Inspectors are not authorized to do this, and advantage is taken of the helplessness of the State to meet competition at the starting point.

Private concerns offer further inducements by hauling tobacco free from the point of destination in Baltimore to the storage warehouse. The Chief Tobacco Inspector should be given power to meet private competition by offering equal advantages to growers as private parties, and in reurn the State has a right to expect the patronage of the growers throughout the State.

In patronizing the State warehouses they do but serve their own best interests, as the State warehouses must depend for support upon the receipts of tobacco from the tobacco-growing counties, which is the only section of the State especially benefited by their maintenance. Should conditions become so unfavorable as to ever make it inexpedient to continue their operation, the tobacco growers of the State will be completely at the mercy of private storage concerns. This result is, no doubt, naturally desired by those financially interested in the private inspection and storage of tobacco, as it is impossible for them to advance rates for inspection and storage, and hold their patronage, as long as the State warehouses are in active operation.

By amending the present law so as to permit the Chief Inspector some latitude of action in order to enable him to meet competition, and by dispensing with the three assistant deputy inspectors, whose services, it is believed, can be spared for the sake of economy, and with the loyal support of the tobacco-growing section, it is believed this institution, which, as far as I am aware, is peculiar to Maryland, and which has existed at the same spot since 1823, will continue and prosper, thereby bringing revenue to the State and affording the best protection to the tobacco growers themselves from private monopoly and extortion.

Accurate information of the receipts and disbursements of the State Tobacco Warehouses can be obtained from the quarterly reports made to the Comptroller by the Chief Inspector.

STATE WHARFINGER.

The wharves under the control of the State Wharfinger, at Long Dock and Pratt street, are in good condition, and will need no repairs for two or three years. The State Wharfinger reports business as being very dull. The Light-street wharf is leased to the Weems Steamboat Company at an annual rental of $1,000. The wharf at the foot of Frederick street is rented to the Northrn Central Railway Company at an annual rental of $1,700.

STATE VACCINE AGENT.

The State Vaccine Agent reports the State is now in the best protected condition, so far as an outbreak of small-pox is concerned, it has ever been, and that every section has been and is receiving virus from his office, and that a severe epidemic of small-pox is almost impossible.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL.

The office of State Fire Marshal has been found to be of great benefit to the people of the State, affording them additional protection against incendiarism and thereby decreasing the losses to property owners by fire and insurance companies doing business here.

The Fire Marshal has investigated the origin of a large number of fires, and his efforts have resulted in a number of arrests of parties who have wilfully set fire to crops or buildings, in order to collect the insurance on the burned property, or because of malice, thereby defrauding the insurance company carrying on account of the efforts of the Fire Marshal in detecting the criminal origin of fires. It is also believed the knowledge that the origin of fires occurring under suspicious circumstances panies on claims for losses which have been abated or abandoned the risk.
and it has saved more than that amount to the insurance com-

The cost of supporting this office is but $5,500 per year, which is paid from revenue received from insurance companies, will be patiently investigated by an officer having power to summon witnesses, administer an oath and cause the arrest of a supposed incendiary, has an effect, which is none the less wholesome because intangible. The report of the Fire Marshal gives statistics in regard to the results accomplished by him.

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

The last report of the Insurance Commissioner, of June, 1901, shows the receipts of this department to be $12,145.25 greater than the previous year, and the expenditures less. The

Commissioner recommends a general revision of the insurance laws of the State. He suggests that a committee, composed of representatives of the different interests, might consult with the Insurance Commissioner and draft such laws as might be found desirable to protect both the interests of the company, their patrons and the State of Maryland. I commend the above to your careful consideration.

BUREAU OF INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS.

Your attention is directed to the valuable work of the Bureau of Industrial Statistics. The chief of the bureau has compiled interesting statistics and information in regard to the farm products of the State, the clothing industry, the canning industry, and he also gives a complete history of the various labor strikes which have occurred within the State during his term of office.

BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION.

This bureau was established by Act of the General Assembly of 1896, and has passed the experimental period successfully. Although the present management has been hampered by insufficient funds, the usefulness of the bureau in attracting desirable settlers to this State has been demonstrated. Through the efforts of the bureau at least 7,478 acres of land have been sold to fifty-five different families, comprising in all 260 people.

Many settlers naturally prefer to make inquiries regarding the advantages of our section of the Bureau of Immigration, rather than of real estate agents, as the Bureau is not interested in any particular section and there is no reason why information furnished should be colored for selfish purposes.

With the means at hand to properly set forth the advantages of our State to the immigrants who land at our ports, it is believed many industrious and thrifty people would gladly settle here rather than incur the expense of a long journey to the West, besides encouraging emigration from other States to

us. Other States, more alive to the importance of securing desirable immigrants, with advantages to offer inferior to ours, by the exercise of greater diligence and the expenditure of more money, far outstrip us in attracting settlers.

I would, therefore, suggest to your Honorable Body that additional means be adopted to bring the advantages of this State to the attention of desirable settlers seeking homes.

LIVE STOCK SANITARY BOARD.

The work done by the Live Stock Sanitary Board inspecting dairies and cattle brought to the stockyards and abattoirs for slaughter is highly beneficial. The board has also established and maintained an effective quarantine against certain sections where Texas fever is prevalent. The State Veterinarian has carefully investigated the origin and nature of infectious and contagious diseases of stock within the State, and his services seem to be appreciated by the stock raisers.

MINE INSPECTOR.

The Mine Inspector recommends that the law be amended so as to permit him to make his report in May, instead of the first of January, as at present, so that the period covered by his report may be identical with his term of office.

He also makes some suggestions which it is not believed will prove burdensome to the mine operators, and will greatly facilitate the collection of information and statistics of accidents by requiring the mine foreman to report all accidents to the Inspector four times a year. He also makes some recommendations which seem pertinent and proper looking to the safety and comfort of the miners, and suggests that the mine foreman be required to visit every working place in the mine under his supervision every two days, in order to see that the provisions of the law regarding air and timber are obeyed, and, second, that sufficient refuge holes be provided for the safety of the men, and that an adequate amount of air for every man and animal be supplied where they are actually working.

MARYLAND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

The Maryland Geological Survey has extended its field of operations into many additional counties during the past two years, completing its field surveys of Cecil, Harford, Garrett, Prince George's, St. Mary's and Calvert counties, while much preliminary work has been carried on in other sections of the State, notably throughout portions of the Eastern Shore, where topographical base maps, on which the geological, soil and forrestry surveys will later be based, have been completed in Kent, Worcester and Somerset Counties. More than one-half of the State has been surveyed, and the work is rapidly progressing.

Several reports have been issued, or are now in press, since the last sesion of the Legislature. During 1900 the first of the county reports, accompanied by a folio of maps, was issued, covering the area of Allegany county, in which the various economic deposits of that region were thoroughly discussed. During 1901 the first of the systematic geological reports dealing with the Eocene, and containing a detailed description of the geology of that group of formations, was issued. Reports are now in press dealing with the geology and economic resources of Cecil, Garrett and Calvert counties, and also the Miocene and Devonian divisions of the geological series. Two economic reports dealing with the coal and clay industries of the State have also been prepared, and will be published at an early day.

The work carried on by the highway division of the Maryland Geological Survey has been highly significant, since during the past two years many of the counties and cities of the State have accepted the services offered by the division, and have received much important assistance in the way of surveys for road improvement, detailed specifications for actual construction and numerous tests of the various road and paving materials used upon county and city highways. A complete testing labaratory, such as has been established by those States and foreign governments, which are taking the most enlightened position in regard to modern highway development, has

been established, and today all the macadam materials, vitrified brick and other substances used in road construction, are rigidly tested and compared with materials of known excellence. In this way the relative values of the materials throughout the State are accurately determined.

The results of the investigations of the Maryland Geological Survey are coming to be recognized as of much practical importance, as shown in the wide demand for its reports and the splendid recognition which its exhibit of the mineral resources of the State received at the Pan-American Exposition, where Maryland was the only State to receive a gold medal for its collective exhibits of mineral resources.

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Never in the history of the College has there been more widespread interest in its development. The agricultural constituency have expressed their appreciation of the value of the College and Experimental Station in furnishing them with useful information.

The College has now a larger attendance of students than at any time since its organization. Many students have been denied admission for want of dormitory accommodations.

I desire to call your special attention to the fact that under what is known as the first Morrill Act, this College receives an endowment from the United States Government as proceeds from the sale of public lands, amounting to $118,000. This fund has been in the past invested by the Board of Public Works in United States or State securities, paying interest at 5 per cent., which met all the requirements of the Act. Due to reinvestment during the past year, the rate of interest has fallen 2 per cent. below the minimum required under the provisions of the law. In making his report to the National Government, as required under the said Act, of the receipts from this fund, the President of the Agricultural College will be compelled to show a deficit in this income.

The courts have ruled, I understand, that the obligations assumed by the State in the acceptance of this trust must be complied with, under penalty of forfeiture of the endowment, amounting, as I have said, to $118,000. In order to comply with the provisions of the law under which this money was accepted by the State, this fund must yield 5 per cent. income, or $5,900 annually, to that institution of the State which is the beneficiary of the Act. It would be a calamity for the State to permit the forfeiture of this endowment, and I earnestly recommend that your Honorable Body take such steps as are necessary to prevent it, as it is impossible for the Board of Public Works to invest the principal of the fund in such securities as are prescribed by the said Act as will yield 5 per cent. net income, as was recently demonstrated by an offer for 3 per cent. bonds of the State of Maryland at a premium which would have netted the purchaser but .0265 per cent. income.

Twice the number of students can be provided with instruction and facilities for same from this fund, which, under the Act, cannot be used for buildings or grounds if the State will provide accommodations for the students in the way of suitable buildings, which should be done, provided the State is first given a good title to the land on which the College is located.

OTHER COLLEGES.

By this brief reference I do not wish to be understood as underestimating the importance of the work done by St. John's College, Western Maryland College, Washington College, Charlotte Hall and the Maryland Institute, or unappreciative of their awarding free scholarships in consideration of the aid extended them by the State, but I anticipate their needs and requirements will be fully set forth in the report of the Board of State Aid and Charities.

MILITIA.

I herewith respectfully call your attention to the report of the Adjutant General of the State, which will be submitted in printed form to the General Assembly, showing in detail the condition of his department.

It is evident an additional appropriation will be necessary in order to complete the new Fifth Regiment Armory, which is in process of construction.

I would also call your attention to the favorable condition of the National Guard at present, both as to its personnel and the care and condition of State and United States Property.

STATE LIBRARY.

The general condition of the State Library is good, but according to the Librarian's report, is hampered by lack of sufficient funds to maintain the Law Department in its proper and necessary condition.

Attention is called to the report of the Librarian, and especially to the suggestions relating to the augumentation, printing, binding and distribution of our State publications.

It is also proper to speak of the extravagance in printing a superfluous number of volumes of public documents, which encumber the library and are unlikely ever to be of value to any one. To the first cost of printing is added the cost of caring for them and finding storage room. There can be found in the cellars of the State House an accumulation of books, many contained in boxes, which have never been opened, and for which additional storage room will soon have to be provided, or the books sold for waste paper.

THE LAND OFFICE.

The Legislature of 1900, by the passage of Chapter 318, reorganizing the clerical force of the Land Office, in providing for a fixed salary for all clerks and placing them under the direct control of the Land Commissioner, has proved of great benefit. The business of the office, such as copying and recording, has been done with despatch, and much accumulated and old business has been cleaned up. The indexing and jacketing of the 45,000 certificates of survey and over 12,000 bundles of chan-

cery papers, has been going on rapidly, and the new system of indexing expedites searches to a remarkable degree. The accumulation of records and work of the office increases rapidly, and larger and more commodious quarters are much needed, which happily will be supplied in the new building now in course of construction. In the Commissioner's report will be found full statements of the business of the office for the past two years, and some valuable suggestions for the consideration and action of your honorable body.

COMMISSION FOR THE REVISION OF THE LAWS RELATING TO STATE BANKS, ETC.

The Commission for the Revision of the Laws of the State of Maryland relating to State banks, savings banks, fidelity and trust companies and building and loan associations, under Chapter 454 of the Acts of 1900, organized soon after its appointment, and are now ready to make such recommendations to your Honorable Body as their careful and painstaking study of the subject suggests.

COMMISSION TO EXAMINE THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 81 OF THE CODE OF PUBLIC GENERAL LAWS.

The Commission authorized by Chapter 290 of the Acts of 1900 has been appointed, and no doubt in good season will submit to your Honorable Body such recommendations as in the good judgment of its members seem wise and proper.

COMMISSION FOR THE PROMOTION OF UNIFORMITY OF LEGISLATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

This Commission has prepared a report, and will submit the same to your Honorable Body, with some recommendations, which, if adopted, will tend to make the laws of Maryland rela-

tive to divorce procedure and insurance policies more uniform with the laws of other States.

PARDONS.

During my administration three hundred and eighty applications for pardon have been filed, and one hundred and fifteen granted.

Of these fifty were being punished for trivial offences, such as unlawfully riding on cars, simple assault, and other misdemeanors, and were fined or imprisoned for a short time. Eighteen were granted where application had been made under former administrations. Two nolle prosequi have been granted and three death sentences have been commuted. Eight death warrants have been signed.

In exercising the pardoning power conferred on me by the Constitution, I have been largely guided by the recommendations of court officers and the officers of the institutions where the applicants were confined.

BOARD OF STATE AID AND CHARITIES.

This Board was created by Act of the General Assembly of 1900. Among the provisions of the Act are those requiring the Board to inquire into the merits of applications, investigate the workings of institutions making application for aid from the Legislature, whether aid is received from other sources and to what extent.

While the Act of Assembly does not require the Board to make a report until after the assembling of the Legislature, it has been, as I am informed by its chairman, carefully engaged in the work required of it for several months. The number of applications from institutions and organizations seeking aid from the State is 98, and the total amount applied for is $1,936,-339.96. The members of the Commission have had two sessions

a week for more than three months past, and have given a hearing to the representatives of a large number of institutions making application for State appropriations.

A full report of its recommendations, with the reasons therefor, will be presented to the General Assembly, and will, without doubt, be of great assistance to your Honorable Body in arriving at a proper decision in connection with this most important subject.

The State is fortunate in having secured the services of such distinguished gentlemen on this Board.

EXAMINATION OF THE ACCOUNTS OF CERTAIN OFFICIALS.

Under Authority of Chapter 111 *of the Acts of* 1900.

By Chapter 111, of the Acts of 1900, the duty is imposed upon the Governor "To cause an examination to be made of the affairs of all State tobacco warehouses, and all offices created by the Constitution and laws of the State, and receiving fees or funds of any kind, for which they are required to account with the State or any State official."

The responsibility for the enforcement of this law and for a construction of the offices embraced within its scope rests largely with the Governor.

Mr. George R. Ash was commissioned under authority conferred by the said Act, and instructed to make an examination of the offices of Clerks of the Circuit Courts, Registers of Wills, State's Attorneys and Sheriffs, these being the most important offices making returns to the State. Mr. Ash applied himself with energy, good judgment and tact to the work, and has made a report of the condition of the above offices in the twenty-three counties of the State.

With scarcely a single exception he was afforded every facility to examine the accounts of the offices by the officials in

charge. Notwithstanding, the law should be amended so as to make the rights and remedies of the examining official more definite in case he is denied access to necessary books and papers.

The passage of the Act of 1900 was timely and proper, and will result in an increase of revenue to the State in excess of the cost of the examination directly due to the correction of errors detected by the Auditor.

The accounts of some of the offices examined, especially those, presumbly, falling below the constitutional salary limit, were not accurately or systematically kept, and it was, therefore, impossible to determine positively the amount received in fees. Without an accurate cash account it is impossible for county officers to return a proper financial statement to the Comptroller, or for a visiting Auditor to reach a definite conclusion.

Owing largely to indifference and careless bookkeeping on the part of some officials, the State has been losing money that should have been paid in the State Treasury, and the public has been deprived of the accurate knowledge of the administration of such public offices to which it is entitled.

The natural tendency, now that a visiting auditor will make periodical examinations, and after having the benefit of his advice and suggestions, will be to make these officers more careful and thorough in future, especially since they can only be charged with carelessness and not with intentional wrongdoing.

In many counties the accounts of the receipts and disbursements are kept, where kept at all, in old and dilapidated books, which heretofore have often been regarded as the personal property of the office-holder, to be removed by him, if he so desires, on the expiration of his term.

The books of such public officers, containing the accounts of the office, are always of interest to the public, and sometimes affect the title to property, particularly the books of the Register of Wills, showing who is credited with the payment of the

collateral inheritance tax on real property where there has been no administration and no accounts passed.

These books should be public records and kept in the office subject to inspection at all times, as other public records.

I would recommend that all Clerks of Circuit Courts, Registers of Wills, State's Attorneys and Sheriffs be furnished by the State with plain but comprehensive cash books, in which all receipts and expenditures shall appear in classified form, and that said books shall become record books of said offices, and the officials shall be required to keep them neatly and up to date.

I also recommend that the Auditor be charged with the duty of determining what books are essential for the proper conduct of such offices, and in order to insure a uniform system of keeping such cash accounts so as to be able to show at any time a statement of the account with the State, that the Auditor be charged with the duty of preparing said books after a manner most consistent with the uses for which they are intended.

The first cost of such books will not be large, and, in my opinion, they will prove a profitable investment for the State, for in addition to prompting proper reports to the Comptroller of public monies, their use will greatly expedite the work of the visiting Auditor in making his examination of the accounts of the said offices, and diminish the expense thereof.

Prior to the designation of the present Auditor, the Executive caused an examination to be made of the affairs of the State Tobacco Warehouses, and in view of the investigation and report of all private and public institutions receiving aid from the State by the Board of State Aid and Charities, it is deemed inexpedient and unnecessary at this time to cause a further examination of them by the Auditor.

STATE CENSUS.

The last General Assembly, at the session of 1901, provided in Chapter 3 for taking a census of the population of the State

of Maryland under the authority thereof, and for making known, by proclamation by the Governor, of the result thereof, and for apportioning the representation in the House of Delegates in conformity with such result.

The Legislature was influenced to enact this law and the Executive to approve the same, because under the census taken by Federal authority in 1900 a result was announced as to some of the counties totally contrary to popular belief, and which, as was afterwards proved and admitted, would have resulted in such undue representation in the General Assembly of Maryland of certain sections of the State, and not warranted by the number of voters in such sections, as to cause great injustice to the people of the entire State.

The census, as provided for by said Chapter 3 of the Acts of 1901, under the authority and at the expense of the State, was promptly completed within the time set by law, and within the appropriation. The Superintendent, after paying all expenses authorized by law, had a balance in hand of $8.53. The result obtained is believed to give a perfectly fair basis for apportioning the representation of the various counties and the City of Baltimore in the House of Delegates, and the Executive proclamation was issued fixing the representation, as prescribed by the Constitution, in conformity therewith.

The provisions of the Act were not sufficiently explicit to permit the maximum benefit to be derived from the State census, and the report of the Superintendent is confined to the requirements contained therein. Valuable information, however, can be had from the work of the enumerators in furnishing the sex, age, color and locality of the illiterates in the State, and the number of children within the school ages in the several counties, to be used by the Comptroller as the basis for apportioning the State school fund, and it is for your Honorable Body, by an appropriate act, to make this information available from the books and papers which are at your disposal.

Owing to the size of some of the districts, many of the enumerators could not complete their full returns within the fif-

teen days allowed by law. They, however, continued their work to completion, but only received pay for the fifteen days.

ELECTION LAW.

The present election law, as amended at the Extraordinary Session of the General Assembly of 1901, Chapter 2, abolishing party emblems, and providing for the arrangement of the names of the candidates to be voted for in columns, has been tested in three municipal elections and one general election. After this thorough test it has fulfilled the expectation and design of its framers in promoting independent, intelligent and discriminating voting, and in rendering the ballot absolutely secret, thereby decreasing the crime of bribery, and improving the moral tone of our elections.

That the present law is honest and fair to all, and is free from partisan advantage, no unbiased man, acquainted with its provisions, will deny, and in view of recent judicial decisions there can be no reasonable ground for doubting its constitutionality.

If any changes in the vital principles of this law are contemplated by your Honorable Body, if I may be pardoned for recalling what you already know, and suggest that the only legitimate object to be attained in this or any system of voting is to secure the sincere expression of the will of the individual.

This cannot be done unless the voter is free from coercion, intimidation or undue influence, and unless the bribe-giver is unable to learn from some source, in addition to the word of the voter, himself an interested party, if the contract of bribery has been fulfilled. Ordinary business prudence will deter the bribe-giver from paying for that which he cannot be certain he has received.

The law which will accomplish this result in the most efficient and the simplest way is the best law. No form of ballot or system of voting with which I am familiar is as well calculated

to do so with as little annoyance and inconvenience to the voter as the present law. The labor and delay in counting the ballots can be decreased by dividing the larger voting precincts, and in order that the type used in printing the official ballots throughout the State may be uniform, the duty should be imposed upon some responsible person to decide upon the type, and send each Board of Election Supervisors a sample of same, which shall be used by them in preparing the official ballot. I would suggest that the Secretary of State be charged with this duty, and for such service he shall be allowed reasonable compensation.

PRIMARY ELECTION LAW.

It is proper to call your attention to the necessity for a law regulating primary elections. The great objection urged to such a law is the heavy and inevitable expense attached to its operation; but in sections where conditions are such as to threaten the purity and fairness of our primary elections the expenses should be cheerfully borne, as the people are as much entitled to their right to choose their candidates as to their right to choose their officers at the ensuing election. The primaries should be regulated so as to fairly afford to the vote of each citizen its just influence in determining the nominees of his party.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, I trust cordial and friendly relations may continue to exist between the Legislative and Executive Departments, and sinking personal differences, if any should arise, we may each give credit for honesty and patriotism where it is due, and unite our best efforts to promote the prosperity and happiness of the people, and maintain a government in Maryland which may conform to the highest ideals of civic virtue.

JOHN WALTER SMITH.